



Design, ultrasound assisted Synthesis and anticancer screening of 4-[5-(aryl)-4, 5-dihydro-1H-pyrazol-3-yl]-3-(substituted phenyl) sydnones

Sachin K Bhosale¹✉, Shreenivas R Deshpande², Rajendra D Wagh³, Nirmala V Shinde¹

¹Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, S. M. B. T. College of Pharmacy, Nandihills, Dhamangaon, Tah: Igatpuri, Dist: Nashik, Maharashtra, India; ²Department of Medicinal and Pharmaceutical Chemistry, HSK College of Pharmacy, BVVS Campus, Bagalkote, Karnataka, India; ³Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, A.R.A. College of Pharmacy, Nagaon, Dhule, Maharashtra, India;

✉Corresponding author: Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, S. M. B. T. College of Pharmacy, Nandihills, Dhamangaon, Tah: Igatpuri, Dist: Nashik, Maharashtra, India

Present research work focused to green synthesis of novel mesoionic compounds containing sydnone moiety and their anticancer screening. Scheme 1 shows synthesis of compounds 4-[5-(aryl)-4, 5-dihydro-1H-pyrazol-3-yl]-3-(substituted phenyl) sydnones (2a-j) by cyclization of sydnonyl-substituted α , β -unsaturated ketones (1a-j) with hydrazine hydrate. All compounds were characterized by spectral studies. Molecules 2i, 2j were evaluated against 60 human cancer cell lines for *in vitro* anticancer activity. A compound 2i was found to have greater anticancer activity than standard vincristine sulphate against specific cell lines. Further structural modification of the active mesoionic sydnones might lead to development of potent anticancer molecules.

INTRODUCTION

Cancer is a leading cause of death in the world and tightening its grip with the increase in mortality rate day by day. The mortality rates due to cancer are likely to increase to a great extent by 2020. The word cancer refers to “abnormal and uncontrolled growth of cells” and antineoplastic means “against new growth”. Most of the anti-neoplastic agents act by interfering with cellular synthesis or functioning of DNA/RNA or proteins. (Lemke et al, 2008).

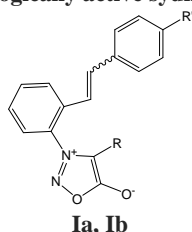
Sydnones as anticancer agents

Mesoionicsydnone derivatives have been described for a variety of antitumor activities (Butkovic et al, 2011; Grynberg et al, 1992; Greco et al, 1962; Satyanarayana et al, 2004; Satyanarayana et al, 1995; Dunkley et al, 2003; Dunkley et al, 2003; Tegginamath et al, 2013; Bhosale et al, 2015; Bhosale et al, 2015; Bhosale et al, 2017). It has been observed that the ionic resonance structure of sydnone ring enhances interactions with cancer cells. Based on literature survey and reported antitumor molecules we have designed and synthesized molecule 2a-j.

Table 1 Reported sydnones and their derivatives having antitumor activity

(Butkovic et al, 2011; Grynberg et al, 1992; Greco et al, 1962; Satyanarayana et al, 2004; Satyanarayana et al, 1995; Dunkley et al, 2003; Dunkley et al, 2003; Tegginamath et al, 2013; Bhosale et al, 2015; Bhosale et al, 2015; Bhosale et al, 2017)

Biologically active sydnones



Substituents

Ia R=CH₃, R'=CH₃

Ib R=Ph, R'=Cl

cis-4-methyl-3-[2-[2-(4-methylphenyl)ethenyl] phenyl] sydnone (**Ia**)

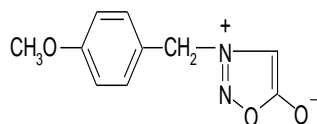
cis-4-phenyl-3-[2-[2-(4-chlorophenyl)ethenyl]-phenyl] sydnone (**Ib**)

Biological activity

Anticancer

Ref.

01

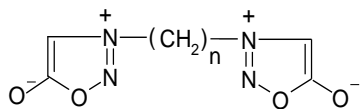


II

3-(p-methoxybenzyl) syndnone

Anticancer against carcinoma-755

02

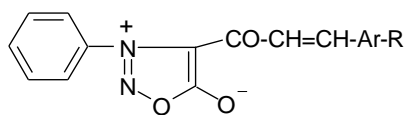


III

polymethylene-bis-syndnones

Potent antitumor

03

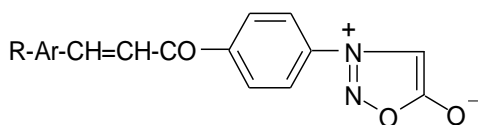


IV

IVaAr= Ph, R=4-CH₃ **IVb**Ar= Ph, R=3-OCH₃, 4-OH,
IVcAr= Ph, R=4-CF₃

Highly selective against SNB-75 tumour cell line of CNS

04

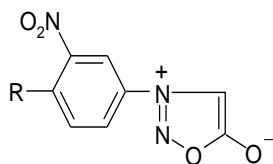


V

VaAr=Ph, R= H, **Vb**Ar=Ph, R=4CH₃, **Vc**Ar=Ph, R=4-OCH₃,
VdAr=PH, R=2,4-(OCH₃)₂,
Vg Ar=Ph, R=3- Cl, **Vh**Ar=Ph, R=2-Cl
VeAr=Ph, R=4- NHCOCH₃,
VfAr=Ph, R=4-Cl, **Vg**Ar=Ph, R=3-Cl, **Vh**Ar=Ph, R=2-Cl

Anticancer

04,05

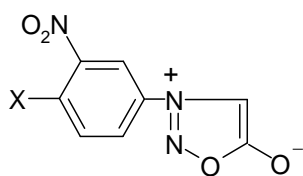


VI

VIR=F
 4-substituted-3-nitrophenyl syndnone

Anticancer against MCF7 (Breast), NCI-H460 (Lung) and SF-268 (CNS) cell lines

06, 07



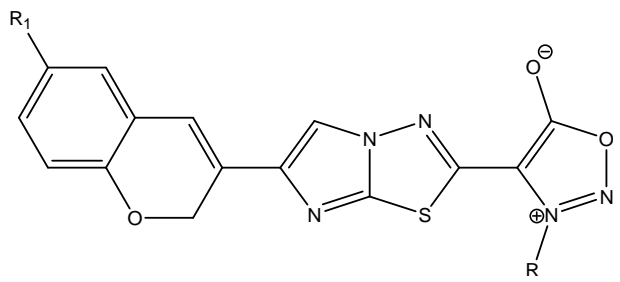
VII

VIIa, VIIb, VIIc, VIId

X= Cl, , ,
 3-[4-X-3-nitrophenyl]-1,2,3-oxadiazolium-5-olates

Anticancer against Sarcoma 180, Ehrlich carcinoma, B10MCII (Fibrous histiocytoma) and L1210 leukemia ascitictumours

06, 07



VIII

R₁=H, Br, Cl, H, Br, Cl, H,
 Br, Cl, H, Br, Cl
 R= C₆H₅, C₆H₅, C₆H₅, P-CH₃-C₆H₄, P-CH₃-C₆H₄, p-CH₃-C₆H₄, p-OCH₃-C₆H₄, p-OCH₃-C₆H₄, p-OCH₃-C₆H₄, p-Cl-C₆H₄, p-Cl-C₆H₄, p-Cl-C₆H₄

Anticancer

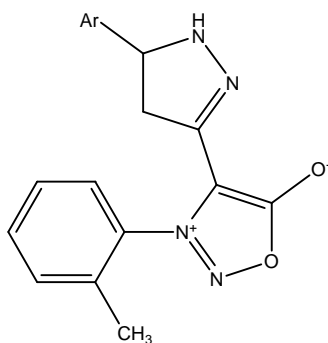
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4-[6'-(caumarin-3''-yl)-imidazo-[2,1-b][1,3,4]thiadiazol-2'-yl]-3-arylsyndnone,

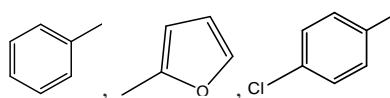
Ar=

Antitumor against human breast cancer

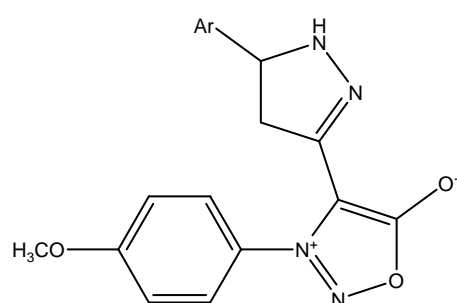
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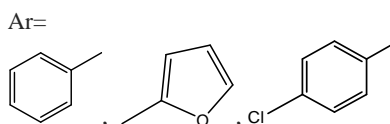
IX



cell line MDA-MB-231 and human prostate cancer cell line PC3

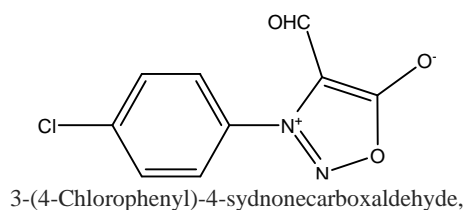


X

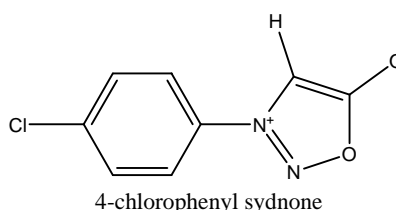


Antitumor against non-small cell lung cancer cell line (HOP-92), melanoma (M-14) and human prostate cancer cell line (PC3)

10



XI



XII

Antitumor against non-small cell lung cancer cell line (NCI-H23), CNS cancer cell line (SNB-75)

11

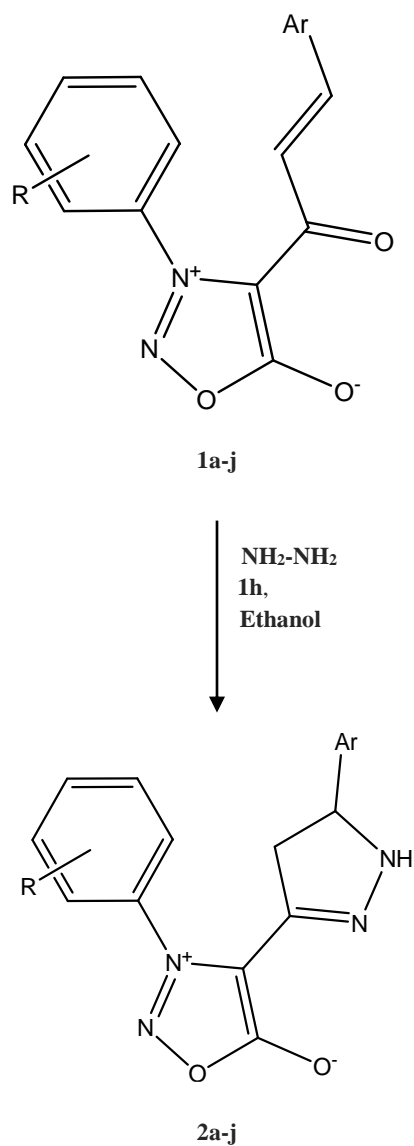
MATERIALS AND METHODS

All chemicals used from Sigma-Aldrich, Mumbai, India. Melting points were recorded on Systolic apparatus. TLC was carried out to monitor the completion of reaction by using E-Merck precoated 60 F254 plates. IR spectra were recorded by using KBr pellets on Jasco FTIR 1460. NMR spectra were recorded on a BRUKER AVANCE II 400 (are expressed in δ , ppm). MS were performed on WATERS, Q-TOF instrument. The ultrasonication study was performed at frequency, 40 KHz.

Synthesis and characterization of 4-[5-(aryl)-4,5-dihydro-1H-pyrazol-3-yl]-3-(substitutedphenyl)sydnone 2a-j:

Synthesis of 4-[5-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4,5-dihydro-1H-pyrazol-3-yl]-3-(4-fluorophenyl)sydnone (2b):

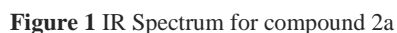
To an ice cold solution of hydrazine hydrate (20mM) in ethanol(30ml), 4-[1-oxo-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-propenyl]-3-(4-fluorophenyl)sydnone, **1b** (5mM) was added and heated at 60 °C for 1h under ultrasonication and then cooled. The precipitate washed in cold ethanol to obtain **2b** (135mg, Rf =0.539, Ethyl acetate: Benzene, 2:8). In similar way all remaining compounds **2a-j** were synthesized from respective **1a-j** as shown in scheme 1.



Comp.	R	Ar
1a, 2a,	4-Cl	
1b, 2b	4-F	
1c, 2c	2,4-Cl ₂	
1d, 2d	4-Br	
1e, 2e	4-Cl	
1f, 2f	4-F	
1g, 2g	2,4-Cl ₂	
1h, 2h	4-Br	
1i, 2i	4-Cl	
1j, 2j	4-F	

Scheme 1

Synthesis of 4-[5-(aryl)-4,5-dihydro-1H-pyrazol-3-yl]-3-(substituted phenyl)sydnones **2a-j** from 4-[1-oxo-3-(aryl)-2-propenyl]-3-(substituted phenyl)sydnones, **1a-j**



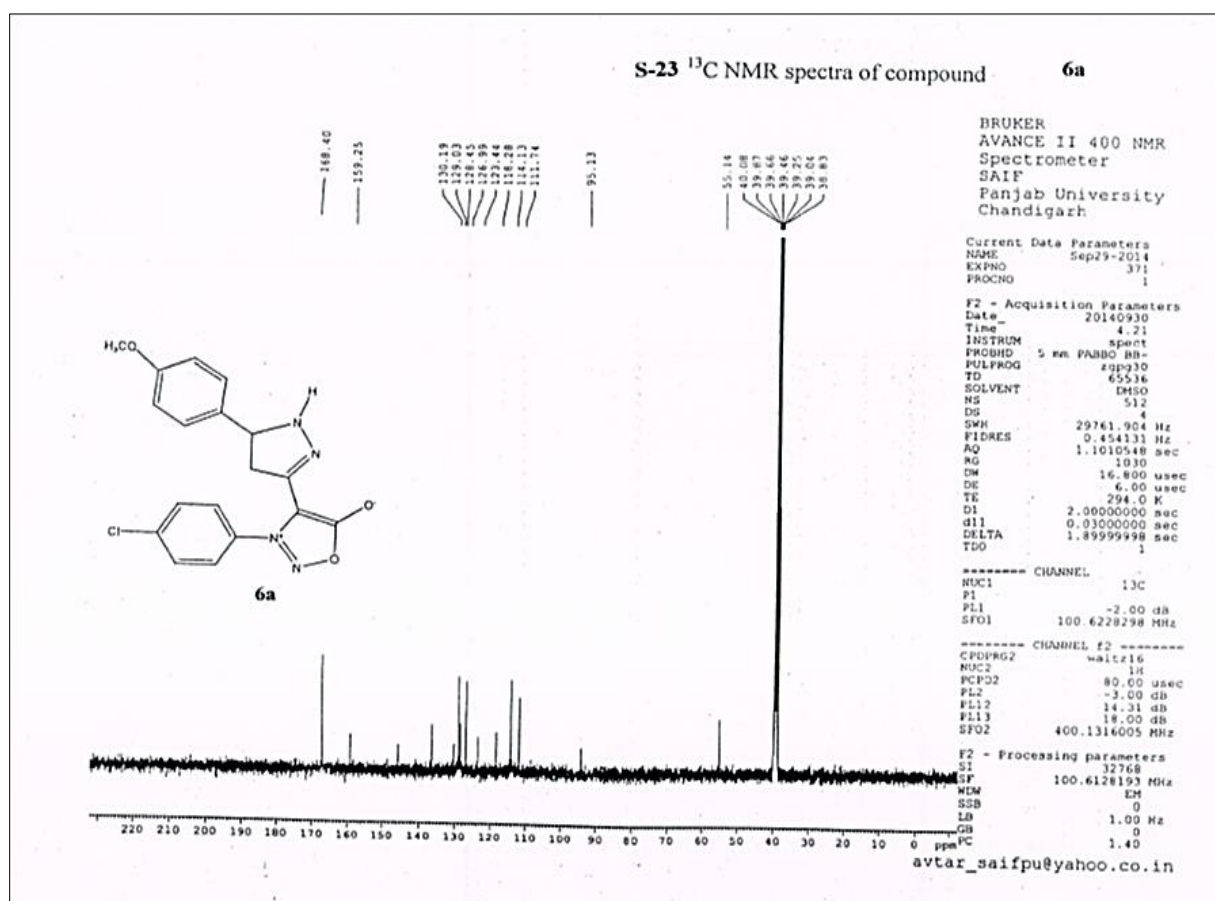


Figure 3 ^{13}C NMR Spectrum for compound 2a

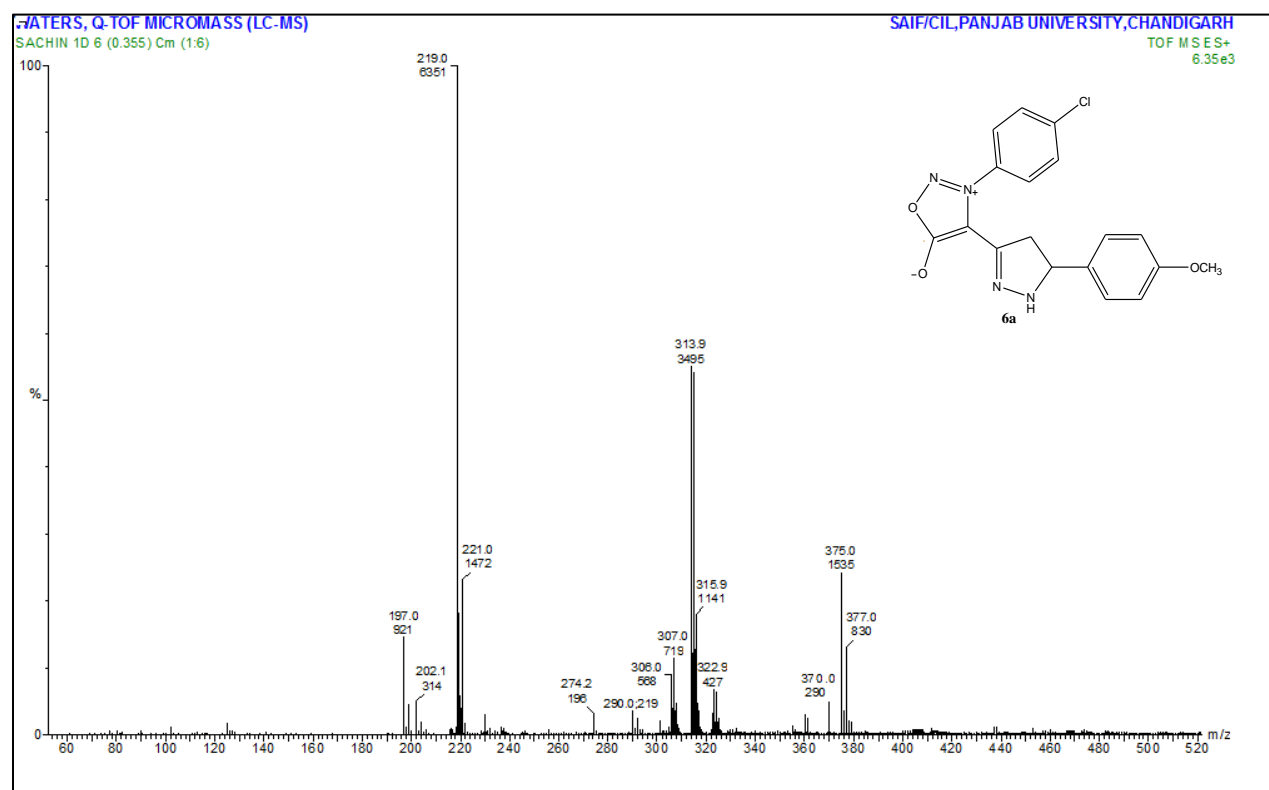


Figure 4 Mass Spectrum for compound 2a

Table 2 Characterization for compounds 2a-2j

Compound with IUPAC name	IR (KBr) (cm ⁻¹)	¹ H NMR (δ ppm)	¹³ C NMR (δ ppm)	Physicochemical data
4-[5-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4, 5-dihydro-1H-pyrazol-3-yl]-3-(4-chlorophenyl) sydnone 2a	3263.93 (N-H), 1735.62 (C=O), 3057.58 (CH, pyrazoline)	3.38 (-OCH ₃), 3.171 (1H, 5CH, pyrazoline) 6.72-7.98 (4H, 4H 2Ar-H), 13.2 (1H, -NH).	40.08, 55.14 (-OCH ₃), 95.13, 111.74, 114.13, 118.28, 123.44, 126.99, 128.45, 129.03, 130.19, 159.25, 168.40	C ₁₈ H ₁₅ ClN ₄ O ₃ , Mol. wt. 370.79 Mass: 370.08 m/z=370.00 C, 58.29; H, 4.13; N, 15.14. % Yield=71, Rf=0.513 mp=129–131°C.
Synthesis of 4-[5-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4, 5-dihydro-1H-pyrazol-3-yl]-3-(4-fluorophenyl) Sydnone 2b	1735.62 (C=O), 3262.83 (NH pyrazoline)	7.07 (C ₆ H ₄ F, 2H) 7.2 (C ₆ H ₄ F, 2H) 7.07 (N-H, 1H) 6.91 (C ₆ H ₄ , 2H) 6.93 (C ₆ H ₄ , 2H) 3.38(OCH ₃ , 3H) 3.17 (pyrazole, 5CH, 1H) 8.5 (1H), 13.2 (1H, NH)	116-162 (C ₆ H ₄ F), 113.9-160 (C ₆ H ₄), 55.14 (OCH ₃), 40.08 (pyrazole, 4C), 49.1(pyrazole, 5C), 159.6 (pyrazole, 3C), 95.13(sydnone, 5C), 123 (sydnone, 4C), 168	C ₁₈ H ₁₅ FN ₄ O ₃ Mol. wt.-354.34 m/z= 354.11, C, 61.01; H, 4.27; N, 15.81. % Yield=69, Rf=0.539 mp=132–133°C
Compound with IUPAC name	IR (KBr) (cm ⁻¹)	¹ H NMR (δ ppm)	¹³ C NMR (δ ppm)	Physicochemical data
4-[5-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4, 5-dihydro-1H-pyrazol-3-yl]-3-(2,4-dichlorophenyl) sydnone 2c	3285.23 (N-H), 1721.47 (C=O).	7.1- 7.3 (C ₆ H ₃ Cl ₂ , 3H) 7.0 (N-H, 1H) 7.01 (C ₆ H ₄ OCH ₃ , 2H) 6.72 (C ₆ H ₄ OCH ₃ , 2H) 3.9 (Pyrazole, 5CH, 1H) 3.73 (OCH ₃ , 3H) 1.9 (Pyrazole, 4CH ₂ , 2H).	40 (pyrazole, 4C), 53.4(pyrazole, 5C), 56 (OCH ₃), 105.7(sydnone, 5C), 121.67 (sydnone, 4C), 127-135 (C ₆ H ₃ Cl ₂), 155.6 (pyrazole, 3C), 113.9-160 (C ₆ H ₄ OCH ₃)	C ₁₈ H ₁₄ Cl ₂ N ₄ O ₃ Mol. wt.:405.235, m/z= 404.044, C, 53.35; H, 3.48; N, 13.83 % Yield=73, Rf*=0.548 mp=131–133°C.
4-[5-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4,5-dihydro-1H-pyrazol-3-yl]-3-(4-bromophenyl)sydnone 2d	1735.29 (C=O), 3263.93 (NH pyrazoline)	7.0 (C ₆ H ₄ Br, 2H) 7.2 (C ₆ H ₄ Br, 2H) 7.0 (N-H, 1H) 6.72 (C ₆ H ₄ , 2H) 7.01 (C ₆ H ₄ , 2H) 3.38(OCH ₃ , 3H) 3.17 (Pyrazol, 5CH, 1H) 8.5 (1H), 13.2 (1H, NH)	116-162 (C ₆ H ₄ Br), 113.9-160 (C ₆ H ₄), 55.14 (OCH ₃), 40.08 (pyrazole, 4C), 49.1(pyrazole, 5C), 159.6 (pyrazole, 3C), 95.13(sydnone, 5C), 123 (sydnone, 4C), 168	C ₁₈ H ₁₅ BrN ₄ O ₃ Mol. wt. 415.241, m/z= 414.4, C, 52.06; H, 3.64; N, 13.49 % Yield=79, Rf=0.613 mp=146–148°C.
Compound with IUPAC name	IR (KBr) (cm ⁻¹)	¹ H NMR (δ ppm)	¹³ C NMR (δ ppm)	Physicochemical data
4-[5-(furyl)-4, 5-dihydro-1H-pyrazol-3-yl]-3-(4-chlorophenyl) sydnone 2e	3263.63 (N-H), 1735.28 (C=O)	3.19(d, 1 H), 3.45 (s, 3 H), 6.79 (d, 2 H) 7.03 (d, 2 H), 7.38 (d, 2 H), 7.55 (d, 2 H), 7.71 (d, 1 H), 8.10 (d, 2 H)	40.06, 95.07, 123.32, 130, 133, 136, 147, 160, 168	C ₁₅ H ₁₁ ClN ₄ O ₃ Mol. wt. 330.726 Mass: 330.052, m/z: 330.052, C, 54.47 H, 3.35; N, 16.94 % Yield=64, Rf=0.609 mp=155–158°C
4-[5-(furyl)-4,5-dihydro-1H-pyrazol-3-yl]-3-(4-fluorophenyl)sydnone 2f	1735.89 (C=O), 3263.93 (NH pyrazoline)	7.0 (C ₆ H ₄ F, 2H) 7.2 (C ₆ H ₄ F, 2H) 7.0 (N-H, 1H) 6.06 (Furyl, 3CH, 1H) 6.24 (Furyl, 4CH, 1H) 7.28 (Furyl, 5CH, 1H) 3.9 (Pyrazol, 5CH, 1H) 1.9 (Pyrazol, 4CH ₂ , 2H)	41.0 (pyrazole, 4C), 48.8(pyrazole, 5C), 105.7(sydnone, 5C), 121.67 (sydnone, 4C), 116-162 (C ₆ H ₄ F), 155.6 (pyrazole, 3C), 104.9-157.6 (furyl, C ₄ H ₃ O)	C ₁₅ H ₁₁ FN ₄ O ₃ Mass: 314.08 Mol. wt. 314.27, m/z = 314.082, C, 57.29; H, 5.56; N, 17.88 % Yield=70, Rf=0.0.57 mp=143–145°C

Compound with IUPAC name	IR (KBr) (cm ⁻¹)	¹ H NMR (δ ppm)	¹³ C NMR (δ ppm)	Physicochemical data
<i>4-[5-(furyl)-4, 5-dihydro-1H-pyrazol-3-yl]-3-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)sydnone</i> 2g	1731.18 (C=O) 3261.05 (NH pyrazoline)	7.1- 7.3 (C ₆ H ₃ Cl ₂ , 3H) 7.28 (furyl, 5CH, 1H), 7.1 (N-H, 1H), 6.24 (furyl, 4CH, 1H) 6.06 (furyl, 3CH, 1H) 4.1 (Pyrazole, 5CH, 1H) 1.9 (Pyrazole, 4CH ₂ , 2H)	38 (pyrazole, 4CH ₂), 53.1 (pyrazole, 5C), 105.7 (sydnone, 5C), 121.67 (sydnone, 4C), 127-135 (C ₆ H ₃ Cl ₂), 155.6 (pyrazole, 3C), 104.9 (furyl, 3C), 110 (furyl, 4C), 140.6 (furyl, 5C), 157.6 (furyl, 2C)	C ₁₅ H ₁₀ Cl ₂ N ₄ O ₃ Mol. wt. 365.171, m/z= 364.013, C, 49.34; H, 2.76; N, 15.34 % Yield=63, Rf=0.535 mp=196–198°C
<i>4-[5-(furyl)-4,5-dihydro-1H-pyrazol-3-yl]-3-(4-bromophenyl)sydnone</i> 2h	1733.35 (C=O), 3262.30 (NH pyrazoline)	7.0 (C ₆ H ₄ Br, 2H) 7.2 (C ₆ H ₄ Br, 2H) 7.0 (N-H, 1H) 6.06 (Furyl, 3CH, 1H) 6.24 (Furyl, 4CH, 1H) 7.28 (Furyl, 5CH, 1H) 3.9 (Pyrazol, 5CH, 1H) 1.9 (Pyrazol, 4CH ₂ , 2H)	40.06 (pyrazole, 4C), 95.07 (sydnone, 5C), 123 (sydnone, 4C), 130-160 (C ₆ H ₄ F), 155.6 (pyrazole, 3C), 104.9-157.6 (furyl, C ₄ H ₃ O), 168.11	C ₁₅ H ₁₁ BrN ₄ O ₃ Mol. wt.: 375.177, m/z= 375, C, 48.02; H, 2.96; N, 14.93 % Yield=59, Rf=0.49 mp=163-165°C
Compound with IUPAC name	IR (KBr) (cm ⁻¹)	¹ H NMR (δ ppm)	¹³ C NMR (δ ppm)	Physicochemical data
<i>4-[5-(4-nitrophenyl)-4, 5-dihydro-1H-pyrazol-3-yl]-3-(4-chlorophenyl)sydnone</i> 2i	3585.65 (N-H), 1735.87 (C=O)	3.17 (d, 1 H), 3.41 (d, 1 H), 4.76 (t, 1H), 6.84 (d, 2 H), 7.21 (d, 2 H), 7.68 (d, 2H), 7.98 (d, 2H), 8.12 (d, 1 H)	39.64, 40.06, 123.38, 123.69, 130.17, 144.18, 149.98, 165, 168	C ₁₇ H ₁₂ ClN ₅ O ₄ Mol. wt. 385.761, m/z: 385.058, C, 52.93; H, 3.14, N, 18.15, % Yield=63, Rf=0.58 mp=157-159°C
<i>4-[5-(4-nitrophenyl)-4,5-dihydro-1H-pyrazol-3-yl]-3-(4-fluorophenyl)sydnone</i> 2j	1735.33 (C=O), 3113.21 (NH pyrazoline).	8.14 (C ₆ H ₄ NO ₂ , 2H) 7.38 (C ₆ H ₄ NO ₂ , 2H) 7.2 (C ₆ H ₄ F, 2H), 7.3 (C ₆ H ₄ F, 2H) 8.14 (C ₆ H ₄ NO ₂ , 2H) 7.38 (C ₆ H ₄ NO ₂ , 2H) 7.0 (Pyrazole, N-H, 1H) 3.9 (Pyrazol, 5CH, 1H) 1.9 (Pyrazol, 4CH ₂ , 2H)	116-162 (C ₆ H ₄ F), 123.4-148.5 (C ₆ H ₄), 43 (pyrazole, 4C), 49.1 (pyrazole, 5C), 155.6 (pyrazole, 3C), 105.7 (sydnone, 5C), 121.67 (sydnone, 4C)	C ₁₇ H ₁₂ FN ₅ O ₄ , Mol. wt. 369.307, m/z= 369.087, C, 55.29; H, 3.28; N, 18.96 % Yield=81, Rf=0.534 mp=145-149°C

Compounds 6a-x are soluble in DMSO

* Rf values are taken in benzene: ethyl acetate (8.5:1.5 v/v)

Anti-cancer screening

‘Brine shrimp lethality bioassay’ (Preliminary cytotoxicity study)

Screened against a panel of 60 different human tumor cell lines (*In-vitro* study)

Preliminary anticancer activity by Brine shrimp lethality bioassay (Meyer et al 1982, Zhao et al 1992)

Performed using Meyer’s method. The lethal concentrations resulting in 50% mortality of the brine shrimp (LC₅₀) was determined from the 24h counts. The dose-response data were transformed into a straight line through trade line fit linear regression analysis. It reported in Table 2).

Table 2 Brine Shrimp lethality assay of compounds **2a-j**

Comp.	LC ₅₀ (μg/ml)
2a	11.65
2b	13.45
2c	12.45
2d	15.11
2e	12.45
2f	14.74
2g	13.09
2h	15.71

2i	07.45
2j	09.66

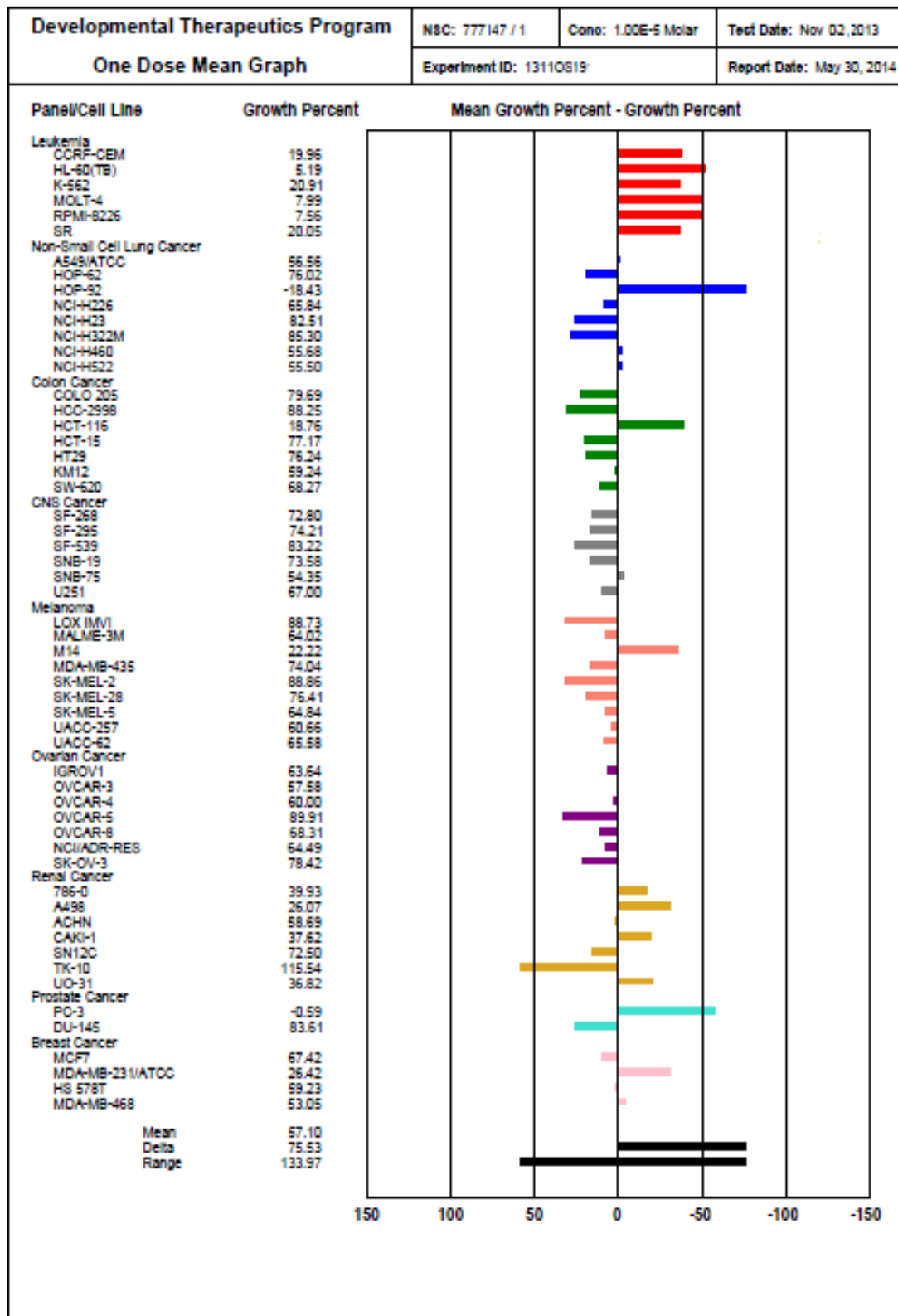


Figure 5 Anticancer activity for 2i against 60 human cancer cell lines

In-vitro anticancer evaluation against 60 human tumor cell lines (Adams et al, 2005; Al-Suwaidan et al, 2013; Lorenzi et al, 2009; Mingyi et al, 2013; Roschke et al, 2003; Dudhe et al, 2014)

Evaluation of compounds **2i**, **2j** for anticancer activity was done at NCI, Bethesda, USA as per standard procedure. The screening was performed against various nine neoplastic cancers cell lines (leukemia, non-small cell lung, colon, CNS, melanoma, ovarian, renal, prostate and breast cancers).

The results recorded as a mean graph for % growth inhibition of treated cells and represented as one dose DTP curve and is shown in Fig. 5-6.

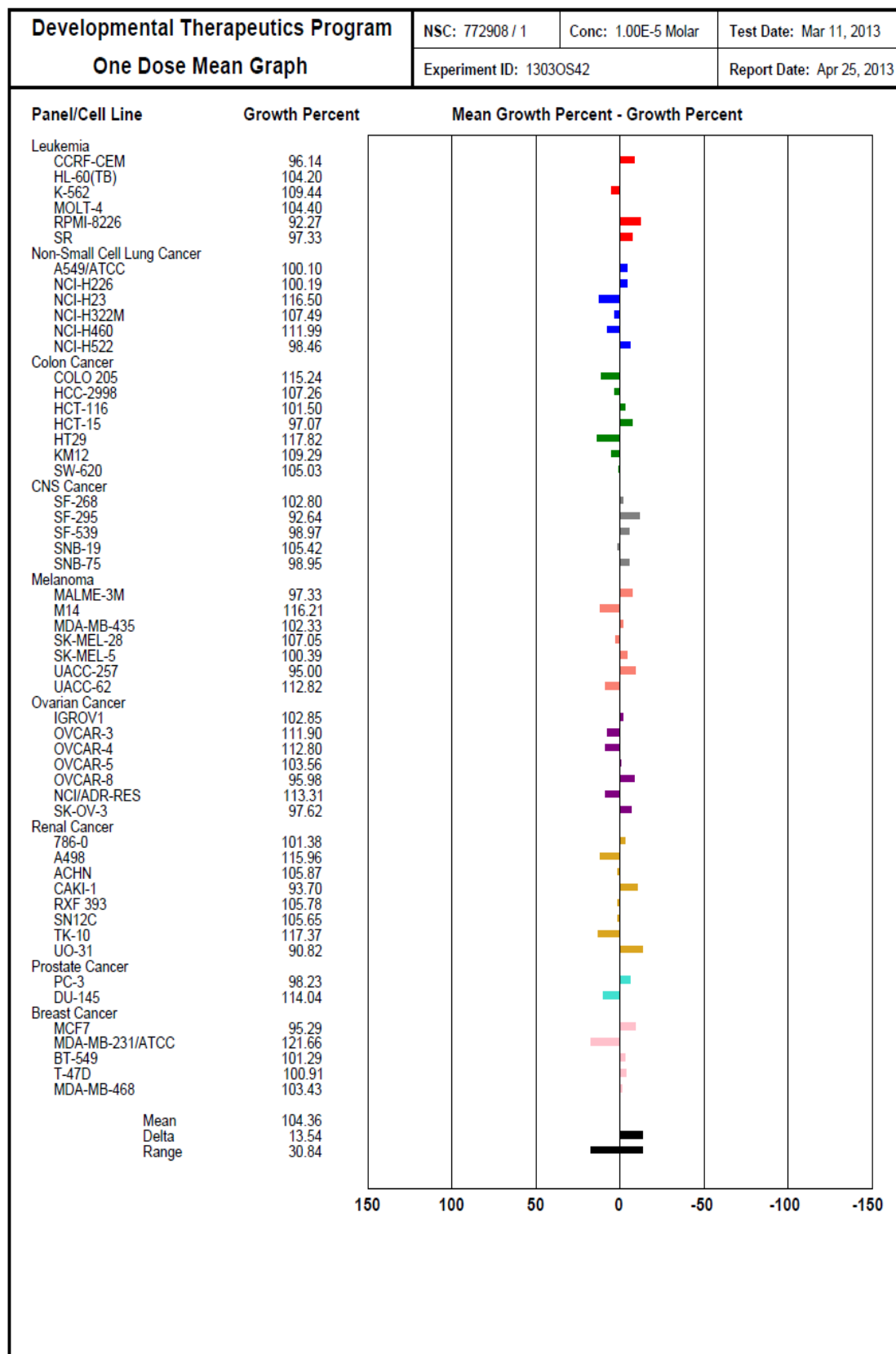


Figure 6 Anticancer activity for **2j** against 60 human cancer cell lines

Table 3 Anticancer screening data for compound **2i**, **2j**

Human tumor cell line	% GI for 2i	% GI for 2j	% GI for Std.
Leukemia			
CCRF-CEM	37.17	4.49	4.49
HL-80	51.19	-	35.39
K-562	36.19	-	10.89
MOLT-4	49.11	-	5.30
RPMI-8226	49.44	12.09	16.2
SR	37.05	7.03	0.5
Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer			
HOP-92	75.53	-	-62.00
A549/ATCC	-	4.26	-6.3
NCI-H226	-	4.17	-17.9
NCI-H23	-	-12.14	-280.1
NCI-H322M	-	-3.13	-33.4
NCI-H460	-	-7.63	13.00
NCI-H522	-	-5.90	23.4
Colon Cancer			
HCT-116	38.34	-	47.00
HCT-15	-	7.29	-0.6
SW-620	-	-	-5.2
CNS Cancer			
SNB-75	2.75	-	-5.4
SF-295	-	11.72	-3.3
SF-268	-	-	-13.6
Melanoma			
M-14	34.88	-	ND
MALME-3M	-	7.03	-35.1
UACC-257	-	10.34	4.6
Ovarian Cancer			
OVCAR-04	-2.90	-	-38.9
OVCAR-8	-	8.38	ND
SK-OV-3	-	6.74	18.2
IGROV1	-	-	6.3
Renal Cancer			
786-0	17.17	-	-2.1
A498	31.03	-	ND
CAKI-1	19.48	10.66	-16.2
UO-31	20.28	13.54	-18.3
SN-12C	-	-	-29.6
Prostate Cancer			
PC-3	57.69	6.13	-8.00
Breast Cancer			
MDA-MB-231/ATCC	30.68	-	37.4

MCF7	-	10.34	7.9
BT-549	-	-	34.5
T-47D	-	-	-48.5
Mean	57.10	104.36	10.298
Delta	75.53	13.54	83.798
Range	133.97	30.84	363.9

Range = highest growth percent- lowest growth percent.

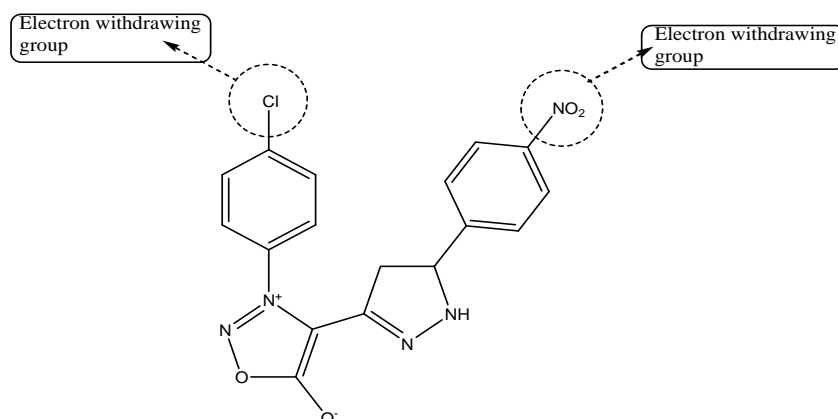
Delta = mean growth percent - lowest growth percent.

% GI: % growth inhibition = mean growth percent- % growth,

Standard –Vincristine sulphate, ND-not determined, -- poor GI

CONCLUSION

Based on *in-vitro* evaluation, compound **2i** showed higher and broader spectrum of anticancer activity against leukemia (all cell lines), non-small cell lung cancer (HOP-92), prostate cancer (PC-3), melanoma (M14), renal cancer (786-O, A498, CAKI-1, UO-31 cancer cell lines), prostate cancer (PC-3) as compared to standard and **2j** (as shown in Fig. 5 and Table 3). Compound **2i** showed prominent anticancer activity due to active sydnone ring and substitution of 3rd and 4th position of sydnone with aryl ring having electron withdrawing functional groups like chloro (-Cl) and nitro (-NO₂) which make benzene ring more stable and may also increases lipophilicity to penetrate easily into cancer cells. Compound may exhibited anticancer activities over multiple mechanisms with inhibiting protein kinase (CDK, MK-2, PLK1, kinase-like protein Eg5 and IKK), topoisomerase I and II, microtubule inhibition and many others. (Jawaid et al, 2000) Further research and development with designing necessary structural modifications of molecule **2i** may lead to safer and effective potential anticancer drug candidates. The finding of the study inferred that the molecule **2i** renders as a lead for further development of novel potent anticancer molecules against specific tumor cell line.



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